

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Venezuela

Post: Caracas

Controlled price revised for several products

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

Post provides informal summaries of recent news on new controlled prices for poultry, rice and sugar, the removal of import taxes for various food products, and the dairy industry's request to support the installation of electric plants at several facilities.

General Information:**Retail prices for rice, poultry and sugar have been increased**

The prices of basic food products have begun to increase. As per the Official Gazette published March 9, the new controlled prices for poultry, refined sugar, and rice were fixed by the Government at Bs 13.83 for a kilogram of chicken, Bs. 3.76 per kilogram of rice, and Bs. 3.73 for a kilogram of sugar. Also hens, ketchup, mayonnaise, and margarine will no longer be included in the controlled price list.

The Minister of Commerce, Richard Canan, said that the new price structure is per a policy review of regulated food products that the Government has implemented to protect consumers from speculators.

Import taxes removed on various foods

As per a resolution published in the Official Gazette No. 39.380, the Government declared as of first need and massive consumption the following products: wheat, purebred breeding cattle, beef carcasses and boneless beef, some vegetable products like onions, carrots, tomatoes, and lettuce, infant formula, concentrated protein, and other food products.

These products will be exempt from paying taxes for import procedures, in accordance with Article 91 of the Venezuelan Customs Act. The benefit will be in force for one year and may be extended. The resolution also indicates that importers will need to apply for certificates of non-production or insufficient production to be issued by the Ministry of Food which will take into account the availability of the products in the Andean countries and others.

Dairy companies requesting support from the Government

Representatives of the dairy industry, Inlaca, Nestlé and Parmalat, have requested government support to install electric plants at their facilities. The president of the Dairy Chamber stated that they presented a proposal to the Executive to acquire the necessary equipment that will allow these plants to generate the energy needed for processing. The Government representatives agreed to expeditiously handle the requirements of these companies. The Chamber representative said that 90 percent of the milk processing industry in the country is self-sufficient in electricity and they need help with three specific projects to achieve 100 percent independence.

Source: Leading daily newspapers